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Inside this Issue

- 1 Administrator's Notes
- 2 Featured Exhibits
- 3 Featured Exhibits
- 4 Department Intelligence
- 5 County Organization News
- 6 Historical Organizations
Committee/Artifact Highlight
- 7 Calendar of Events

Melanie Barton, Museums Admin.
Museums Division
101 Maple St.,
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-6500
mbarton@placer.ca.gov

George Lay, President
Placer County Historical Society
P.O. Box 5643
Auburn, CA 95604
www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Editor and Staff Writer:
Ralph Gibson
(530) 889-6506
rgibson@placer.ca.gov
www.placer.ca.gov/museum

The Placer

A Voice of History

Administrator's Notes

Melanie Barton

The theme for this issue of *The Placer* is Featured Exhibits. Most of us who regularly visit museums can remember certain, special exhibits that caught our eye and have remained fresh in our minds even years later. Several years ago I attended an exhibit at the Los Angeles Museum of Art that featured the paintings by renowned artist Georgia O'Keefe. The vivid colors and bold designs remain fresh in my mind today. I have carried with me the *feel* of the paintings even though I cannot tell you exactly which paintings were exhibited. Why is it that some exhibits have a more profound effect on the visitor than others? I believe the key is RELEVANCE.

Sam Ham, in his book Environmental Interpretation, states that information that is relevant to us is meaningful and personal. According to Ham, information is meaningful when we are able to connect it to something we already have inside our brains. In addition, the information being presented should be linked to something we care about.

If you asked a room full of people what was their least favorite subject in high school, a majority would respond, history.

Characteristically, the manner in which history lessons are presented are rarely interesting or provocative. Teachers seldom get past the facts to focus on making history relevant to students. Studies have shown that people remember better when they can relate to the subject. We have several goals when we create a new exhibit. The first priority is to find ways to make the exhibit relevant to the visitor. You will notice in our new temporary exhibit at the Placer County Museum, *It's in the Bag*, that we are encouraging people to discuss how tools have changed through time and the tools of their trade. When we are appealing to young audiences, interactive elements that tie into the California State Curriculum Standards may be employed. In all new exhibits our goal is to build that bridge between the historic subject matter and the visitor.

We anticipate numerous changes to the exhibits in all the Placer County Museums in the coming years. These may include new temporary exhibits, improvements to permanent displays, and new permanent exhibits. In each case, we will use various techniques to ensure that the exhibit is relevant to the targeted audience. This will enhance the visitor experience and create that bridge. As we embark on new projects, we hope that you make that connection. ♠

Featured Exhibits

A Doctor's Bag...

Ralph Gibson

It's in the Bag, the Placer County Museum's newest exhibit, opened on February 10, 2005. Over 50 people, including Second Grade students from the nearby Montessori School, attended the opening. So far, the exhibit has been very well received.

The theme of the exhibit is: the tools you use defines who you are and what you do. The story of our lives can be partly told through the tools in our toolkits. On display in the exhibit is a turn of the century doctor's home office. The centerpiece of the display is the iconic doctor's bag. Around the bag is an assortment of medical instruments from 1900 that were loaned by the Sacramento Sierra Valley Museum of Medical History for this exhibit. These artifacts bring the scene to life and help tell a greater story.

Included with this exhibit is a hands-on section for young students. Children can try to match the tools in one of three bags to Judge Prewett, the Klumpp Leatherworks, or the Clausen Blacksmiths.

We have also created an educational packet for Placer County Second Grade educators that expands upon the general theme of the exhibit. Second Grade students will learn how tools have evolved and improved over time, which will help them develop a sense of history.

The story of our own lives can be traced through a study of the tools we have used and still use today. To

learn more about these instruments that are both essential to, and diagnostic of our lives, please visit the Placer County Museum in the Historic Placer County Courthouse in Auburn and see what's in the bag. This exhibit will run through June 1, 2005.

The Placer County Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. and admission is FREE. If you have any questions about the exhibit, please call 530-889-6500. ♦

Fraternal Order Exhibit at the Golden Drift Museum

Doug Ferrier

Several years ago, the museum's exhibit team put together the Fraternal Order Exhibit. The purpose of the exhibit was to show our visitors the rich history and variety of fraternal orders, social societies, and literary societies that existed over the years in Dutch Flat. Most of the ritual costume items were from the Knights of Pythias chapter that was here. Kathryn McGinis (Golden Drift Historical Society Member and Board Member) was able to track information about the discontinued chapter through an existing chapter in Grass Valley/Nevada City. They were in possession of many artifacts from the Dutch Flat chapter, and were more than happy to turn them over to us.

We have been able to document over 20 different fraternal orders, social societies, and literary societies that had a chapter in Dutch Flat. A binder filled with specific information on each known order or society is attached to the outside wall of the exhibit and can be studied by visitors to the museum. ♥

Fraternal Order Exhibit



Colfax on Display

Helen Wayland

The Colfax Area Historical Society maintains several exhibits that tell the story of this historic railroad city that was founded in 1905 as a Central Pacific work camp. The area's rich history is brought to life through displays of historic photographs and artifacts. An important addition to the Historical Society's collections is over 7,000 glass plate negatives and original photographs from Grace Hubley Jones. Grace, a Colfax native, was a commercial photographer in the early 1900s. Colfax Area Historical Society exhibits are located in the Colfax City Council Chamber. The Chamber is open to the public Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibits are changed every six months.

For more information, call Helen Wayland at (530) 346-7040 or e-mail her at:

candrgray@infostations.net. ♣



An Exhibit of Your Own

To steal a line from Monty Python's Flying Circus, "And now for something completely different..."

Placer County Museum's Exhibits Preparator, Jason Adair, wrote the following article. He will enlighten and entertain you with his insights and expertise in creating a home reliquary.

Scientists used to say that man's ability to use tools is what set him apart from all other animals. Jane Goodall's discovery of tool using chimps in 1960 put us all in a quandary as how to properly distinguish ourselves from apes. We can finally relax, for I have found the one thing that sets us apart from every other creature on the planet: our ability to hoard useless objects. While this practice is good for the museum industry, as well as *ebay*, it can be utterly tragic for our closets, attics, garages, and relationships. I'm not here to tell you how to get rid of all that useless junk you have lying about, which would bring about the whole pot-and-kettle-name-calling-conundrum, but I am here to let you in on some methods to make the display of some of those items easier on the home life.

As stuff-loving people, we are happy to be surrounded by the things we've acquired. We also like to give our favorite items a place to sit so that we may look at them and encourage others to do the same (in hopes they might develop an appreciation for dried apple dolls, commemorative spoons, or whatever the silly thing we collect is). What follows is a simple list of dos and don'ts that will bring peace and tranquility to your cluttered old house.

First, let someone know how important this display is to you by giving it an appropriate name, because presentation is everything. Do not refer to your display area as your "doll case", "china cabinet", or "spoon cozy." That's just another way of saying "my unimportant thing of stuff." From now on you will refer to it as your "*reliquary*." This gives your collection of junk a Masters Degree in historical relevance. And even though it's off the subject, you should also change the name of that drawer in the kitchen from the "junk drawer" to the "precious things drawer."

Second, confine your reliquary to a space. If you are using a cabinet, don't set that one last piece on top because there isn't any room. In fact, if there isn't any room in the case that means you need to thin out your collection. Focus on the things that really excite you and bring back old memories.

Third, do not put your entire collection on display. Even though we all know every single pre-WWII handsaw tells a story, we don't want to see them all at once. It's called flooding the market, and is disastrous in every sense of the word. This is where you have to let the Barnum in you come out and "always leave them wanting more."

Fourth, remember that the purpose of a reliquary is to allow you to have a close relationship with the material objects that bring you pleasure. We've all experienced the instant joy and subsequent flood of memories that can be brought on by seeing a postcard from an old friend or the plastic tube of small rocks you got from your visit to the La Brea Tar Pits when you were ten.

Unfortunately, one man's treasure is another man's trash, thus the

whims and whiles of the person with whom you co-habitate should be taken into account. It's best to figure out where the boundaries exist before you start, and remember that giving someone choices makes them feel like they have more control over the situation than they actually do. Ask them if they think your reliquary would look better in the kitchen or the den. If they try to sneak the garage in as a possibility tell them you're already using that as your "Collections Space".

Fifth, don't be afraid to mix and match. There's no rule that says you can't throw your grandmother's wooden cooking spoon in with your precious moments dolls and your lettermen's sweater. It's your reliquary, let it be what you want it to be.

Sixth, and arguably most important, have fun with it. Our memories are the only thing we have that can't be lost in a fire or stolen by ne'er-do-wells while we're on vacation. Look at this project as a chance to sift through good old times, and make a new memory to add to the reliquary in your head.

So, put down *The Placer* and get to work. When you finish, take a picture of your "museum quality" display and send it to me at jadair@placer.ca.gov. ♦



I have a large seashell collection, which I keep scattered on beaches around the world. Maybe you've seen it.

Steven Wright, Comedian



Intelligence

Department News

Melanie Barton

If you haven't already, we encourage you to stop by the Placer County Museum and enjoy our new temporary exhibit, *It's in the Bag*. In conjunction with the exhibit, Dr. Robert La Perriere will present a program about Gold Rush Medicine on March 26, 2005 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at PCM. He will also talk about the turn-of-the-century tools that are exhibited.

Museum staff is preparing for the spring Living History Program. We are expecting over 2,000 Third Grade students from March through the first week of June. At the end of the season on Saturday, June 4, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we will have a Family Living History Day. This was a very well attended Community Education Program last year. It is your opportunity to bring your children or grandchildren and enjoy a day on a 1890s farm. For more information, call 889-6500. ♦

Ongoing Research...

Ralph Gibson

Many of you know that the Bernhard Museum Complex began as an inn called the Traveler's Rest in 1851 and was owned and operated by George Bishop and John Long. By 1860, the Traveler's Rest had become George Bishop's private home and John Long seemed to have disappeared. In 1863, Eliza Caruthers moved into the home, taking ownership in 1864. In 1868, Eliza sold the property to Bernardus Bernhard. The story of the Bernhard family is fairly well

documented, as is the story of Eliza Caruthers (thanks to the research of Donna Dimmick).

But what about George Bishop and John Long? What happened to them after they left the property now known as the Bernhard Museum Complex? Recently, George Bishop's fate was found in the Placer County Archives and Research Facility and we have strong evidence (though not yet definitive) regarding the fate of John Long.

Placer County Archives and Research Center volunteer Bob Balmain discovered George Bishop's obituary in the November 30, 1889 edition of the *Placer Herald*. It read:

George Bishop was found dead in a ditch at Lakeport, Lake County, last Wednesday. The Coroner's Jury found that his death was from natural causes. He was the manager of the Steinhart Ranch in that county. Mr. Bishop was well known in this county, having lived in Auburn from 1849 to 1871. He was a large dealer in cattle and for years ran the "Traveler's Rest" in company with John Long. His son, Daniel, is practicing law in San Francisco.

In an 1878 Lake County directory, a G. Bishop was listed as a stock raiser living on 160 acres in Lower Lake, California. The Lake County Genealogy Society has found George Bishop's probate and the Coroner's Inquest and copies of these documents will soon be stored at the Archives and Research Center.

John Long's life is a bit more mysterious. When John Long filled out his letter of intent to become a United States citizen in 1855, he listed his country of origin as "England". John Long became a


United States citizen in 1857. But by 1860, John Long disappears from the documentary record until a strange court appearance on Monday, September 10, 1894. On that date, John Long appeared with his attorney, B.F. Meyers, to have the country of origin on his 39 year old letter of intent changed from "England" to "Ireland". Superior Court Judge Prewett agreed, and the word "England" was crossed out with "Ireland" written above it in red ink.

In the 1894 guest registry for the Auburn Hotel, a John Long checked in on Friday, September 7. He listed his home city as *Canyon City*. Was this the same John Long? And which Canyon City of the many in the U.S. was it? Circumstantial evidence seems to indicate it was the same John Long and that he lived in Canyon City, Oregon.

A John Long first appears in the Canyon City, Oregon census in 1870. His occupation is listed as "miner" and his country of origin is "England". The same is found in the 1880 Canyon City census. The John Long living in Canyon City, Oregon died on November 30, 1898. His tombstone reads:

Born in 1822 in Co. Leitrim, Ireland, Died 30 NOV 1898, In Memory of a Pioneer of California in 1848.

The Grant County Oregon Historical Society sent many documents pertaining to John Long, including a couple of possible photographs, which are stored at the Archives and Research Center. ♣



Placer County Historical Organization News



President's Message

George Lay, President

President's Goodbye

I would like to thank all of the members of our society for allowing me to serve as your president for the past 9 terms. Our general meetings have been the highlight for me. Thank you for your collective response when I assign the first table to go forward to get the outstanding meals catered by Richard Yue and company. The reason the meetings are successful is because "behind the scene" members such as Addah Owens, Betty Samson and others are always reliable and committed. Our directors' meetings operate like clockwork as the nine committee chairmen are relentless in their service to the society in performing their duties. So I thank each and all of you once again. Respectfully, George Lay, President. ♣

Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

Addah Owens, Vice President

When: April 7, 2005

Time: 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Program

Where: Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn, California

Cost: \$12.00

Menu: Stuffed Pork Chops

Mail Check To: PCHS, c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Road, Auburn, CA 95603

Program: Norm Sayler, owner of Donner Ski Ranch, will give a presentation on regional history. He will also discuss historic Highway 40. His presentation will be very informal, and he will answer questions during the program. ♦

Placer County Historical Society's Newest Members

The Placer County Historical Society would like to welcome five new members:

James Durfee of Auburn
Pam Effa of Lincoln
Doug Musso of Auburn
Jo Ann Perkins of Lincoln
Jo Ann Lewis of Newcastle

Books Available at the Museum Gift Shop

On and Beyond the Georgetown Divide #2 by Phyllis Gernes and Kenneth Deibert

Take a Hike by Robert Griffis and Evan Jones

Do You Hear Voices by Brian Hassett

Mining Camps of Placer County by Carmel Barry-Schweyer and Alycia Alvarez

Auburn Images by Art Sommers, Donna Howell, and Mike Lynch

Gift Shop S.O.S.:

Does anyone have a copy of our booklet *Infamous Crimes of Placer County*? We want to print more, but have lost our master copy. If you have a copy we could borrow, please contact Donna Howell at: (530) 885-4647. ♠



Living History at the Bernhard Museum Complex

March/April Schedule:

March 3 – 30 students
March 4 – 60 students
March 7 – 40 students
March 8 – 60 students
March 10 – 60 students
March 11 – 40 students
March 14 – 60 students
March 15 – 60 students
March 17 – 40 students
March 18 – 60 students
April 5 – 50 students
April 6 – 40 students
April 7 – 40 students
April 8 – 60 students
April 12 – 40 students
April 14 – 50 students
April 15 – 40 students
April 19 – 31 students
April 20 – 32 students
April 22 – 26 students
April 29 – 40 students

Placer County Historical Organizations

Historical Advisory Board
Mike Holmes, (530) 889-6500
101 Maple St. Rm. 104
Auburn, CA 95603

Roseville Historical Society
(916) 773-3003
557 Lincoln St.
Roseville, CA 95678
www.rosevillehistorical.org

Forest Hill Divide Historical Society
Walter Reed,
(530) 367-2430
PO Box 1175
Foresthill, CA 95631
www.foresthillhistory.org

Lincoln Highway Association
Robert Dietrich, (916) 962-1428
P.O. Box 2554
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2554
www.lincolnhwy.org

Placer County Genealogical Society
Jerry Unruh, (530) 887-2646
PO Box 7385

Auburn, CA 95604
www.pcgene.com

Colfax Area Historical Society
Helen Wayland, (530) 346-7040
PO Box 185
Colfax, CA 95713-0185
www.foothill.net/colfax/history

Maidu Interpretive Center
Kristie Stevens Bungard,
(916) 772-4242
1960 Johnson Ranch Drive
Roseville, CA 95661
www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum

Placer County Historical Society
George Lay, (530) 878-1927
PO Box 5643
Auburn, CA 95604
www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Golden Drift Historical Society
Doug Ferrier, (530) 389-2617
PO Box 20
Dutch Flat, CA 95714-0020
Rocklin Historical Society
Ron Peterson (916) 630-8902
History Museum (916) 624-3464

PO Box 752
Rocklin, CA 95677-0752
www.rocklinhistory.org

Loomis Basin Historical Society
Alice Barnes, (916) 652-7844
PO Box 2195
Loomis, CA 95659-2195
www.ppgn.com

Friends of Griffith Quarry
Shirley Patocka, (916) 663-3681
PO Box 326
Penryn, CA 95663-0326

Joss House Museum and Chinese History Center
Charles Allen
PO Box 9126
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 878-4602

Newcastle Portuguese Hall Association
Aileen Gage, (530) 885-9113
PO Box 993, 690 Taylor Rd.
Newcastle, CA 95658

Exhibit Artifact Highlight

Ralph Gibson

Invented in 1816 by French physician Rene Laennec, the stethoscope is one of the most recognizable tools in the medical profession.



The turn of the century stethoscope, pictured here, was loaned by the Sierra Sacramento Valley Museum of Medical History for the Placer County Museum's exhibit, *It's in the Bag*. Although this stethoscope was used one hundred years ago, second grade students from the Auburn Discovery Montessori School easily identified it. ♥

Calendar of Events

March

- Mar 16th, 7:00 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting at the Loomis Library. Contact (916) 652-7844.
- Mar 21st, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society Meeting at the Rocklin Library.
Contact (916) 624-3464.
- Mar 21st, 7:00 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Business Meeting at the Foresthill Divide Museum.
Contact (530) 367-2430.
- Mar 24th, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogy Society General Meeting in the Beecher Room at the Placer County Library. *Anti-Nazi Resistance in WWII Belgium* presented by Bruce Bollinger. Contact (530) 887-2646.
- Mar 26th, 10:00 am** Community Education Program: Gold Rush Medicine presented by Dr. Bob La Perriere. For more information, contact (530) 889-6500.

April

- Apr 7th, 6:30 pm** Placer County Historical Society Dinner at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Auburn. Contact (530) 878-1927.
- Apr 18th, 7:00 pm** Rocklin Historical Society Meeting at the Rocklin Library.
Contact (916) 624-3464.
- Apr 20th, 6:30 pm** Placer County Historical Advisory Board Meeting at the Placer County Museum in the historic Auburn Courthouse. Contact (530) 889-6500.
- Apr 20th, 7:00 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting at the Loomis Library. Contact (916) 652-7844.
- Apr 20th, 7:00 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Potluck Meeting at the Foresthill Memorial Hall. Contact (530) 367-2430.
- Apr 28th, 7:00 pm** Placer County Genealogy Society General Meeting in the Beecher Room at the Placer County/Auburn Library. *Germans from Russia: Researching in the Ukraine and Poland* presented by Elinor Barnes. Contact (530) 887-2646.